IN THE CLAIMS

The listing of the claims which follows replaces any and all prior versions and/or listings of the claims in the application.

1. (canceled)

2. (original) A method of treating or preventing HCV infection in a mammalian subject comprising administration to that subject of a therapeutically effective amount of a PPARα agonist.

3. (original) The method according to Claim 2 wherein the PPARα agonist is administered in combination with one or more therapeutic agents selected from interferon-α, pegylated interferon-α, ribavirin, a HCV NS3 protease inhibitor, a HCV polymerase inhibitor, anti-HCV antibodies and a HCV vaccine.

4. (currently amended) The ~~use according to Claim 1 or the~~ method according to Claim 2 ~~or 3~~ wherein the mammal is a human.

5. (original) A method of inhibiting entry of HCV to a cell comprising contacting said cell with a PPARα agonist.

6. (original) The method according to Claim 5 wherein the cell is a hepatocyte.

7. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a PPARα agonist and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier in combination with one or more therapeutic agents selected from interferon-α, pegylated interferon-α, ribavirin, a HCV NS3 protease inhibitor, a HCV polymerase inhibitor, anti-HCV antibodies and a HCV vaccine.

8. (original) A kit comprising a PPARα agonist and one or more therapeutic agents selected from interferon-α, pegylated interferon-α, ribavirin, a HCV NS3 protease inhibitor, a HCV polymerase inhibitor, anti-HCV antibodies and a HCV vaccine, for simultaneous or sequential administration.

9. (currently amended) The ~~use according to Claim 1 or 4, the~~ method according to Claim 2 ~~any one of Claims 2 to 6, the pharmaceutical composition according to~~

~~Claim 7, or the kit according to Claim 8~~ wherein the PPARα agonist is a selective PPARα agonist.

10. (currently amended) The ~~use according to Claim 1 or 4, the~~ method according to Claim 2 ~~any one of Claims 2 to 6, the pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 7, or the kit according to Claim 8~~ wherein the PPARα agonist is a PPAR α/γ dual agonist.

11. (currently amended) The ~~use according to Claim 1 or 4, the~~ method according to Claim 2 ~~any one of Claims 2 to 6, the pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 7, or the kit according to Claim 8~~ wherein the PPARα agonist is fenofibrate, bezafibrate, ciprofibrate, gemfibrozil or MK-0767.

12. (new) The method according to Claim 3, wherein the mammal is a human.

13. (new) The method according to Claim 5 wherein the PPARα agonist is a selective PPARα agonist.

14. (new) The method according to Claim 5 wherein the PPARα agonist is PPAR α/γ dual agonist.

15. (new) The method according to Claim 5 wherein the PPARα agonist is fenofibrate, bezafibrate, ciprofibrate, gemfibrozil or MK-0767.

16. (new) The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 7 wherein the PPARα agonist is a selective PPARα agonist.

17. (new) The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 7 wherein the PPARα agonist is PPAR α/γ dual agonist.

18. (new) The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 7 wherein the PPARα agonist is fenofibrate, bezafibrate, ciprofibrate, gemfibrozil or MK-0767.

19. (new) The kit according to Claim 8 wherein the PPARα agonist is a selective PPARα agonist.

20. (new) The kit according to Claim 8 wherein the PPARα agonist is PPAR α/γ dual agonist.

21. (new) The kit according to Claim 8 wherein the PPARα agonist is fenofibrate, bezafibrate, ciprofibrate, gemfibrozil or MK-0767.